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WOODSTOCK, N. B., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1908.

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THE BIG DEBATE.

McKeown puts it over Hazen.

speech of the Premier must be taken | close of the last financial year. as another example of that political (Applause.)

last session respecting the highway act which he had declared was most satisfactory and he would not be issue. Down to the date of the Norton meeting, when Mr Barnes, who reward and salary of \$2,000 a year, had stated that many miles of splendid roads had resulted from the peration of the highway act, the premier had retained his opinion Well, then, as the first act of his political death-bed repentance he is going to deprive the people of the

highway. (Applause.) Then when the opposition pointed out the school-book transactions and how the people were being badly treated in this matter, and this was especially urged by Mr Hartt of Charlotte, the government contended that there was no foundation for the charges. Yet after the Ontario result has announced that after the next election an independent, nonpartisan commission, no doubt, com posed of such men as John T Hawke, editor of the Moneton Transcript, shall be appointed to inquire into the

matter. (Cheers.) FLEMMING'S CHALLENGE

When Mr Flemming first issued his challenge, the Premier had declared that such a meeting would be no good, because the audience would be composed of partisans, but as he went around the country and saw how the people felt, he suffered another death bed repentance and arranged for this meeting.

He congratulated the Premier upon the admirable way he refrained from answering Mr Flemming's three

J D Hazen was given a good re- categorical questions, as to how ception, which lasted for a consider | much money was borrowed in 1907 able time and after expressing his from 1908, how much the overdraft pleasure at the greeting and paying on public works account was, and a warm compliment to the effort of how much money was required to Mr Flemming, he said that the pay the bills contracted before the

Instead of answering these quesdeath-bed repentance so much in tions the Premier had dealt with evidence since the campaign started. ancient history, with acts committed by predecessors who were in He referred to his statement at the power 30 years ago before he or Flemming even had a vote. (Cheers)

They were not interested in what had been done 30 years ago, what afraid to go the people upon that they wanted to know was how the government was administering the affairs of the province today. Are by the by, had gone to his political | they administering them with prud-

Cries of yes, yes, and counter cries

Don't answer me tonight, continued the speaker, but answer by your

votes on the third of March. Cheers. The Premier had tried to score against Mr Flemming by stating that he had included the \$69,000 advanced to road superintendents twice in his debt must increase. We should statement of over \$400,000 over expenditure for the year 1907. The on the people of today not only to do Premier had said that this amount the best they can and to keep down was included in the overdraft of the the burdens of the future, but also to public works department. He might | do their duty to the present generabe right in this statement, but if he tion. There is a policy in this prowas his chief commissioner was vince today which says that progress commission had reported the premier | wrong, for he had stated in the house | must halt, and in the remarks of the that this amount was not included in two Conservative champions who the overdraft of \$197,000. (Cheers)

Mr Hazen took up the Central Railway and the expenditures upon

"At the last session of the house of assembly the province was asked to guarantee, in addition to the bonds already guaranteed, bonds to the value of \$110,000, and it was done. Up to the present time we have guaranteed \$810,000 worth of bonds. and now there is not sufficient money left in the provincial treasury to complete the road by building it from Minto to Fredericton, as was originally intended. (Applause.)

guaranteed to the extent of \$20,000 per mile and yet what sort of a road have we? Hon William Pugsley, the money. (Loud applause.) Minister of Public Works-(here the audience broke into such a storm of cheering that the speaker was unable to make himself heard for some time) Hon William Pugsley, Minister of Public Works, then the premier of this province, arose in his place on the floor of the house at the last session and announced that the Grand | there is anything incorrect in the | sonally know to be a millionaire. Trunk Pacific would take over the Central. Yet a few days ago, when he came down to St John to tell the good old Liberals how to vote-(laughter) -he could not say when this road would become part of the Grand Trunk. (Applause). It is well known that the gradients on the Central are too steep and the curves too sharp to enable it to be used as part of a trunk line.

"My friend in the gallery has asked about the offer of \$21,000 a year rental for the road. I will tell him people of St John, but rather to those about it. A letter was received by the provincial government from the firm of Greenshields and Green shields of Montreal, offering a yearly rental of \$21,000 for the Central Railway. This firm, you will remember was mixed up in the Drummond County Railway scandal some years ago. (Laughter.) The letter was read to the House but the government could not tell the members who had made the offer or for whom Messrs Greenshields were acting. The matter was placed before the House for the government refused to take any action preferring to throw cipalities. These were, the only the responsibility on the house. The objections raised by Mr Hazen in opposition moved for the appointment of an independent commission to look into the matter of the offer but the government with its majority voted down the motion.

MR MCKEOWN'S ADDRESS.

loud applause, and indeed it was

Black Watch **Chewing Tobacco** The big black plug.

apparent that his popularity as a platform speaker is greater than ever. Yet knowing that no others of their own party were to speak, certain Conservative adherents endeavored from time to time to interrupt Mr McKeown. He refused to be stampeded, but stuck to his guns and poured the shot and shell of convincing argument into the opposing ranks. He touched briefly on various subjects, shattering the arguments of the critics who had previously spoken. Mr McKeown's address was a fair and explicit presentation of the government's progressive policy and at the same time a scathing condemnation of the entire absence of originality on the part of the Conservatives. His telling points were very warmly applauded throughout the entire

A GOVERNMENT'S DUTY.

Hon Mr McKeown remarked that those who had spoken earlier in the evening had discussed the issues of the day in a highly creditable manner, but in a manner which must also have made clear to all why one party is in power and the other out of power. The province, as the premier remarked, has reached such a stage that the building of needed public works must cease, or else the public remember that there is an obligation have spoken there has not been one word of progress. There has been nothing but criticism of what has been done in the past score of years.

The presant government, I admit, is not a perfect government-(Some disorder arose in the hall)-Mr McKeown continued:

"Don't ery when you are hit. understood that I would not be allowed to speak tonight."

I do not claim that the members of this government are perfect menthe only perfect ones are those who now criticise us. But I do say that "This railroad has had its bonds in the past twenty-five years not a single member of the government has taken one dollar of the people's

> Every cent of money paid out is paid for some particular purpose; every cent must be voted by the legislature. Members of the government cannot take money for any works whatever, but all must be passed by the assembly and applied to the works for which it is voted. If on this is one of a man whom I pergiving of money for certain purposes, the time for objection is in the legislature, when the money is being voted. It is idle for men to sit in the legislature and to assent to votes of money and then go about denouncing the government for spending public works, this railway construethat money on needed public works. (Applause.)

THE HIGHWAY ACT.

The leader of the opposition has spoken of the Highway Act. This does not appeal particularly to the in outside districts. The Highway Act was not a government measure it was an honest attempt to improve the highway system throughout the province, and it its preparation the assistance of the opposition was sought. It was hoped that the act would prove a basis for something better-that it would grow up gradually and prove satisfactory to all-Mr Hazen in the legislature spoke twenty times on this act. He objected that the title of highways should be vested in the King, and thought the money should be spent by munitwenty speeches-not one word or suggestion of improvement came from him during the whole time the bill was before the house. (Cheers.) GOVERNMENT'S RAILWAY POLICY.

Mr Hazen also spoke to you toed upon by Mr Thorne. Mr Mc- which is the same policy as has been which is also the policy of the greatest transportations experts Canada has known. As to the International Railway, Collingwood Schreiber has estimated the value of this road to be not less than twenty thousand dollars per mile. (Loud applause.) quested could not possibly be given The government has guaranteed bonds to the extent of eight thousand dollars per mile. The guarantee of if Mr Flemming will ask these same the first six thousand is secured by a first mortgage, covering not only given the information in complete the road but all the rolling stock which the road may at any time ac-

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guarantee of bonds we have taken a second mortgage. As a guarantee of the interest of these bonds, the company have given an undertaking satisfactory in every way to the governor-in-Council, and among the names (Cheers.)

There must be progress, and we cannot have progress unless all districts are opened up. Yet Mr Hazen and his friends would have these tion, cease.

As to the public debt, the policy of the present government is the entire elimination of the public debt. Every year large amounts of money are being put away to meet bonds coming due, and the day is not far distant when the whole debt will be

wiped out. But we must carry on our public works, and the future generations which will enjoy, equally with ourselves, what we are now providing, must be asked to bear a share of the burdens. These great works must go on, and there may be a slight temporary incre se in the debt, but without this there can be no progress. And speaking about debt, the whole criticism is ridiculous. New Brunswick does not feel its debt. We have no debt in comparison with those of other provinces, and yet we are hounded about the country on the charge of extravagance. Has the government ever refused any reasonable request from St John? (Cries of No, no, and cheers.) When the federal governernment gave St John a slap on the face, did not the provincial govern-Immediately after Mr Hazen had night,-criticising as usual-on the ment came to the support of this ceased, Hon H A McKeown was call- railway policy of the government, city? (Cheers and cries of Yes.) When that railway on the West Side Keown was greeted with long and adopted by other and older pro- was sold-instead of being given-to vinces throughout the Dominion, the city, the provincial government stepped in with an additional sub-

sidy of twenty-five hundred dollars. Mr Flemming asked a number of questions of the premier, knowing full well from his legislative experience that the information he reby any man until the accounts have all been completed. (Cheers.) But questions a little later he will be detail.

A VALUABLE ASSET. "Now as to the Central Railway. (Continued on last page)

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